GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:333
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2003
SUPPLY OF CONTAMINATED WATER IN TRAINS
A.K. PREMAJAM

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rules under which the contract of supplying mineral water at the railway stations and in the trains is awarded;

(b) whether the Railway has any monitoring system to test the quality of the mineral water supplied;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints about the supply of contaminated mineral water in trains during the last two years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(f) if so, the findings of the enquiry and the action taken against the persons found guilty ?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 333 BY PROF. A. PREMAJAM TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 13.03.2003 REGARDING SUPPLY OF CONTAMINATED WATER IN TRAINS

(a) As per extant policy "packaged drinking water" which conforms to specifications from Bureau of Indian Standards' (BIS) is supplied to passengers. Railways procure packaged drinking water through open tender in departmental units at competitive rates. Private licensees are permitted to market any brand of packaged drinking water provided the manufacturers of the product are certified by BIS and necessary licences have been issued by the BIS.

(b) Inspections are undertaken and samples are taken under quality control checks. The samples are sent for analysis in recognised laboratories. On Railways' there are presently seven laboratories for testing the quality of water which are at Allahabad, Secunderabad, Kharagpur, Mumbai, Gorakhpur, Izatnagar and Vadodara.

(c) to (f): 41 complaints have been received regarding quality of packaged drinking water on Indian Railways in the last two years. Action is taken in instances of samples found unsatisfactory and not conforming to specifications.